(छ) गरीबी रेखा से नीचे की जन-संख्या के पौषणिक स्तर को बढाने के लिए विभिन्न गरीबी उन्मूलन कार्यक्रम आरंभ किए गए हैं।

Assistance sought by Madhya Pradesh for flood affected farmers

*199. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI:
SHRI RAM GOPAL YADAV:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the assistence sought by Government of Madhya Pradesh for providing relief to the farmers affected by recent floods has been released;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any memorandum has been received regarding inadequate amount of assistance and amendment in the norms of relief or compensation;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) and (b): In addition to the normal release of the first and second instalments of the Central share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) for the year 1994-95, Government of India have also released the third instalment amounting to Rs. 6.9375 crores in advance, in order to enable the Government of Madhya Pradesh undertake relief measures incluing assistance to affected farmers. The fourth instalment is also baing released shortly.

(c) to (e): Government of Madhya Pradesh has represented to the X Finance Commission for enchancing the Annual allocation to the State CRF from the present level of Rs. 37.00 crores to Rs. 160.00 crores. The Commission is reviewing the existing Scheme for Financing Relief Expenditure in the wake of natural calamities as also the allocation under the CRF.

Demand to liberalise mining Policy

*200 SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Federation of Indian Mineral Industries has demanded further liberalization in Government's mining policy;

(b) if so, the details of the demands made by the Federation of Indian Mineral Industries;

(c) whether Government propose to examine the views of the Federation of Indian Mineral Industries and also to liberalise the mining palicy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) to (d) No, Sir. However the Federation of Indian Mineral Industries has suggested inter-alia amendmentsS to the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957, doing away with premature termination of leases, prescribing minimum area for mining lease, deletion of First Schedule of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957, doing away with mining plan for less important minerals, etc.. After considering suggestions received from State Governments and other organisationns including the Federation of Indian Mineral Industries, the Act was recently amended by enactment of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Develpment) Amendment Act, 1994. No further amendments are proposed for the time being.

Shortage of Eggs

1540. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is an overall shortage of eggs in the market, if so, whether Government propose to import eggs;

(b) whether it is a fact that shortage of eggs is due to the death of a large number of chicks which have died of bumboro disease,

(c) whether any vaccine has been developed to prevent bumboro disease, if so, why the vaccine was not distributed in time, and

(d) whether Government will ensure adequate stock of such vaccines in veterinary hospitals and rural units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Vaccine against Gumboro (not Bumboro) disease has been developed in the country and is freely available in the market. Its import is also freely permitted. The State Governments can store this vaccine according to their requirement.

Increase the support price foodgrains

1541. SHRI GAYA SINGH:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the support prices of foodgrains specially, wheat, rice; pulses and coarse grains (maize, great and pearl millets) have been increased in the country during the last three years;

(b) if so, when were the support prices increased alongwith the percentage of increase in each case. What were the prices of these foodgrains in June, 1991 and June 1994 as a result thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that this increase in the Support prices was due to constant increase in the cost of agricultural productions;

(d) if not, what were the other reasons therefor and what has been the percentage of average national increase in the cost of agricultural production on account of increase in the price of fertilizers, electricity, agricultural implements seeds and wages etc. during the last three years; and

(e) what has been the percentage of increase in the total agricultural production in the country during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) to (d) The Government fixes each season the minimum support prices of major agricultural commodities. A statement showing minimum support prices fixed for 1990-91 to 1993-94 crop years along with percentage increase in each case is enclosed, (See below).

While formulating recommendations in respect of minimum support prices the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) takes into account not only a comprehensive over-view of the entire structure of the ecnnomy of a particular commodity but also a number of factors like cost of production, changes in input prices, input/output price parity, trends in market prices, demand and supply situation, inter-crop price parity, effect on industrial cost structure, effect on general price level, effect on cost of living international market price situation and parity between prices paid and prices received. Thus, the cost of production is only one of the factors which go into the determination of the minimum support prices and the Commission does not follow a mechanical approach in evolving the price policy. Moreover, the cost of production estimates are generated at state-level only. The national cost of production of the crops is not worked out.

(e) As compared to the previous year, the All India total Foodgrains Production fell down by 4.5 per cent in 1991-92 and thereafter has increased by 6.9 per cent in 1992-93 and likely to increase by 1.1 per cent in 1993-94.